

## **Indiana Department of Natural Resources**

# **Indiana Excellence in Mining and Reclamation Award**

## **Nomination Criteria and Instructions**

This is the Division of Reclamation's highest award for outstanding achievement in the field of surface coal mining and reclamation.

Former recipients of the Indiana Excellence in Mining and Reclamation Award (EMRA) have received national recognition as a result of participation in awards programs administered by the Office of Surface Mining and the Interstate Mining Compact Commission.

We are very proud of the mining and reclamation operations here in Indiana, and the EMRA program is one way for us to recognize your efforts and to reveal your successes to the rest of the state and the nation.

### **Who is Eligible for the EMRA?**

All surface and underground coal mining operations that have operated under an Indiana permit issued according to IC 14-34 are eligible to be considered for the EMRA. The operator's exemplary performance may be achieved during mining activity, reclamation, or throughout the entire process.

### **How to Nominate a Coal Mining Operation**

Nominations may be submitted by coal companies, mine operators, inspectors, consultants, coal associations, public interest groups, or land owners.

Nominations Due: *2016 date to be announced*

Submissions: Two copies of the completed nomination forms and any supporting documentation should be addressed to:

Division of Reclamation  
ATTN: EMRA Selection Committee  
14619 West State Road 48  
Jasonville, IN 47438

### **What a Nomination Should Include**

A. Cover sheet containing:

1. Company name.
2. Name and location of the nominated mining operation (including driving directions).
3. Permit number(s) of site being nominated.
4. Name, address, phone number, (and email address if available) of person submitting nomination (and/or a company contact person).
5. Names and titles of all individuals directly responsible for on-the-ground reclamation at the nominated site.

B. Narrative: A description of the specific reclamation or environmental control techniques that resulted in exemplary performance under the Surface Mining Law. The narrative should be comprehensive but not exceed six single-spaced typewritten pages and should describe the mining operation and the specific activity nominated for an award using the following outline:

1. Brief history/background of the mining and reclamation.
2. Description of the nominated activity or reclamation practice, including specific problems, solutions, and unusual circumstances.
3. On-site effectiveness of the work. This should be documented and quantified with data. For example, successful handling of acid materials could be shown with water quality sampling data.
4. Transferability or value of the accomplishment(s) to other mining and reclamation operations.
5. Long-term benefits to the landowner and local or regional community.

C. Color photographs (not slides): The photos should show both the specific activity and the surrounding reclamation. When examined with the narrative description, the photographs should provide a clear understanding of the exemplary accomplishments. Photographs should be 8" x 10" or smaller, and labeled to explain what the photo shows. "Before and after" photos are desirable, but not required. There is no limit to the number of photographs that may be submitted.

D. Format: Each nomination package must contain the required information (described above) in a three-ring, loose-leaf binder, plus six high-quality, stapled photo copies (e.g., Xerox) for use by the judges. Additional supporting information may be submitted with the nomination; however, it must be separate from the information described above.

Nominations submitted by persons not directly associated with the coal company may not necessarily contain all the above-requested information simply because it may not be available. For nominations of this type, the EMRA Selection Committee will contact the coal company for assistance in preparing the formal nomination packet.

### **How the EMRA will be Selected**

All nominations will be screened by the EMRA Selection Committee, and an on-site visit will be made of each nominated site to assure the following:

1. Information contained in the nomination package accurately reflects current site conditions.
2. On-the-ground performance conforms with the permit.
3. Other mining and reclamation activities at the site do not detract from the award-winning activity.

Each nominee's compliance record will be examined to assure that there are no outstanding violations and to determine that there is no past record of poor cooperation in abating violations.

The EMRA Selection Committee will conduct a technical evaluation of each nomination and assess a ranking for each nomination based upon the following criteria:

CRITERIA AND MAXIMUM POINTS	
Clarity and completeness of nomination package	5
Difficulty in achieving reclamation under existing conditions	20
On-site effectiveness	30
Transferability of the technique or practice	12
Increased public awareness of the Surface Mining Law	8
Long term benefits to the community	15
Exceeds the spirit and intent of the Surface Mining Law	10